

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IGA-02 /071 W

-----270633Z 058420 /10

R 261130Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1893

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 5461

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, PFOR, PK, US

SUBJECT: AID AND THE ANTI-AMERICAN CAMPAIGN

1. ONE OF THE RECENT TARGETS OF THE ANTI-AMERICAN CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN OUR AID ACTIVITIES. A NUMBER OF ARTICLES IN THE PRESS HAVE REVOLVED AROUND THE ASSERTION THAT US ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN ONE OF THE USG'S MAIN LEVERS IN KEEPING PAKISTAN A SUBSERVIENT CLIENT IN THE SUPPOSED IMPERIALIST SYSTEM.

2. SPECIFIC ATTACKS HAVE APPEARED IN THE PAKISTAN TIMES - INCLUDING ONE H.K. BURKI ARTICLE - ON THOSE IN THE GOP WHO SUPPORT OR ENDORSE THE IDEA THAT PAKISTAN SHOULD ACCEPT US ECONOMIC AND COMMODITY ASSISTANCE. IN THE MOST RECENT ONE, ON MAY 22, BURKI LABELED AS A "FIFTH COLUMN" THOSE THAT WOULD ENDORSE A WHEAT PURCHASE JUST AS PAKISTAN REACHED "SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN FOOD GRAINS." AN EARLIER ARTICLE HAD SEEN SINISTER IMPLICATIONS IN VISITS BY USAID OFFICERS TO MARKET TOWNS BEFORE THE ELECTION.

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3. THE MAY 22 PAK TIMES ALSO CARRIED A FRONT PAGE ARTICLE HEADLINED "THE FOUR MILLION DOLLAR MEN" IN WHICH THE "ECONOMIC WIZARDS IN THE SECRETARIAT" WERE CRITICIZED FOR BEING ON THE VERGE OF SPENDING RS. 40 MILLION ON A "FAIRLY SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF 'RESIDENT CONSULTANTS' FROM THE US AND POSSIBLY FROM ITS

COLLABORATORS." THE ARTICLE GOES ON TO SAY THAT "IT IS WELL KNOWN" THAT THE CIA HAS "PENETRATED ALMOST EVERY SECTOR OF PUBLIC ACTIVITY IN PAKISTAN" AND THAT THE NEW EXPERTS WILL PROVIDE EXCELLENT COVER FOR ADDITIONAL PENETRATION. THE SAME ARTICLE CONTAINED A SARCASTIC REFERENCE TO THE FACT THAT LOCAL EXPENSES OF OUR AID PROGRAM ARE BORNE BY THE GOP - A REFERENCE TO THE TRUST FUND.

4. ANOTHER INTERESTING CHARGE APPEARED IN THE PPP DAILY MUSAWAT. IN A STORY FROM LAHORX, IT WAS CLAIMED THAT US "EXPERTS" WORKING ON "RESEARCH PROJECTS ON THE FUNDS OF THE WORLD BANK OF AGENCIES OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE" WERE NO LONGER WORKING, BUT JUST COMING TO THE OFFICE "TO REGISTER THEIR ATTENDANCE." MUSAWAT ALSO FALSELY CLAIMS THAT THE DEPARTURE OF PAKISTANI STUDENTS DUE TO LEAVE FOR THE US ON SCHOLARSHIPS HAD BEEN CANCELLED.

5. IT IS HARD TO TELL TO WHAT EXTENT THE GOVERNMENT'S CURRENT ANTI-AMERICAN LINE HAS IMPAIRED THE TRADITIONAL COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE AID MISSION AND GOP COUNTERPARTS. COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN USAID AND THE GOP HAVE UNQUESTIONABLY SLOWED DOWN, BUT THIS IS IN PART A REFLECTION OF THE INTERIM POLICY WE ARE FOLLOWING HERE. USAID HAS, IN THE PAST WEEK, RECEIVED A FORMAL REQUEST FOR ITS FY 78 TRAINING PROJECT, AND THE GOP HAS APPROACHED USAID ABOUT FURTHER WORK ON TWO OTHER PROJECTS NOW CONFIDENTIAL

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UNDER PREPARATION. AN AID OFFICER HAS ALSO BEEN ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN A COMMITTEE TO REVIEW RESEARCH ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, USAID HAS SEEN A MEMORANDUM SENT OUT BY THE SECRETARY FOR POPULATION INSTRUCTING THE POPULATION DIVISION STAFF TO HAVE NO CONTACT WITH AMERICAN OFFICIALS WITHOUT PERMISSION, AND TO REPORT ON ALL THE CONTACTS THEY DID HAVE - A SHARP CHANGE FROM THE EASY, INFORMAL RELATIONSHIP WHICH HAD EARLIER PREVAILED.

6. COMMENT: THERE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THOSE IDEOLOGICAL LEFTISTS IN PAKISTAN WHO HAVE OPPOSED US ASSISTANCE AS A MEANS OF "KEEPING PAKISTAN IN SERVITUDE," AND WHO HAVE CRITICIZED THE GOP OFFICIALSOQORKING WITH US. THE CURRENT ANTI-AMERICAN CAMPAIGN HAS GIVEN THEM A WELCOME PLATFORM. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN PICKING UP SIGNALS THAT OTHER WESTERN AID DONORS ARE SENSING A GREATER RELUCTANCE ON THE PART OF GOP OFFICIALS TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THEM. IT IS TOO EARLY, OF COURSE, TO

DRAW DEFINITIVE CONCLUSIONS ABOUT THE EFFECT OF THIS
CAMPAIGN ON AID'S FUTURE WORKING RELATIONSHIPS
SHOULD BILATERAL RELATIONS RESUME THEIR NORMAL SHAPE,
BUT THERE CERTAINLY IS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE PAKI-
STANIS WILL PROVE MORE SENSITIVE ABOUT THE SIZE OF
OUR PRESENCE AND THE CLOSE COLLABORATIPA RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND AMERICAN OFFICIALS UP AND DOWN
THE LINE THAN WAS THE CASE BEFORE APRIL 28.
CONSTABLE

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Message Attributes

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